



31069

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

TITLE OF INVENTION:

Food and Drink Order Automation System

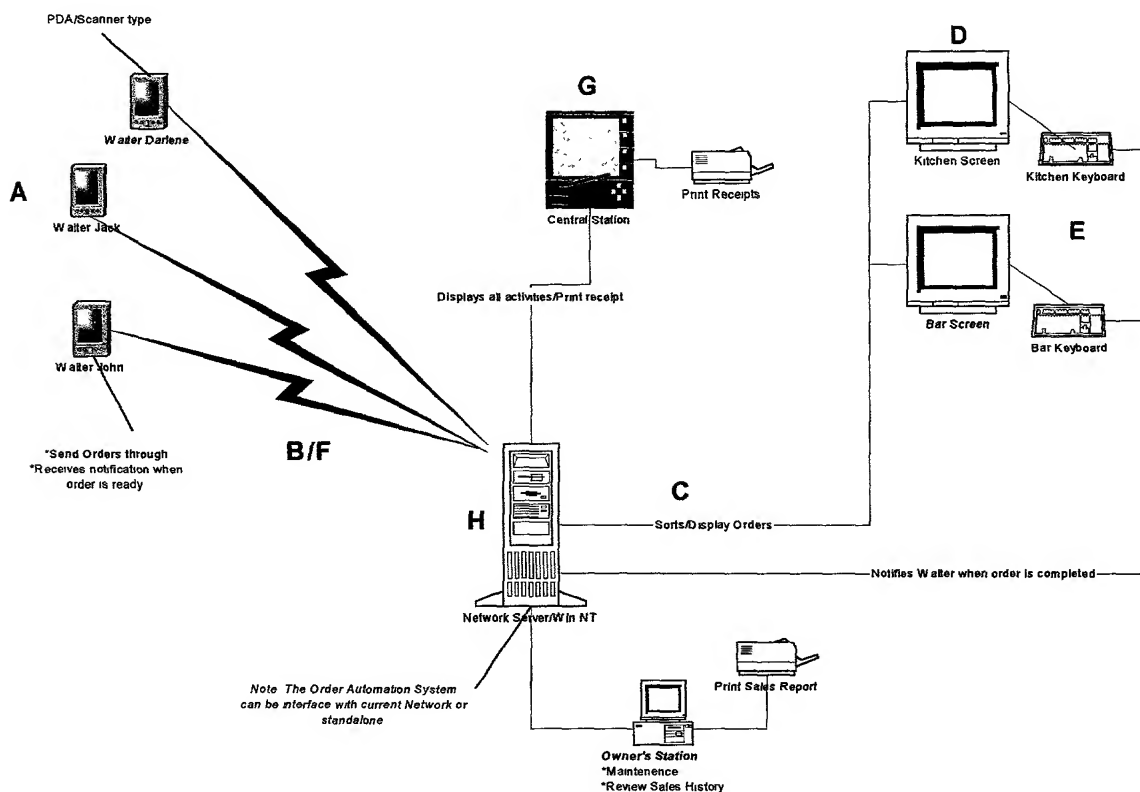
SPECIFICATION:

The Food and Drink Order Automation system is comprised of a wireless handheld unit (PDA/Palm Pilot Type brand) that communicates with a wireless network. All codes for transmission and retrieval are within the scope of this patent. Order Entry and Order Notifications are displayed on the handheld carried by the waiter staff allowing them to remotely communicate with the kitchen and bar stations. This method eliminates the travel time (walking) between customer tables and station/kitchen/bar.

- A) The waiter/waitress staff submits food/drink orders with a handheld unit (PDA/Palm Pilot Type brand/stylus).
- B) The electronic signal (order entry) is sent via TCP/IP to the wireless network.
- C) The data is sent to the wireless network (H) and orders are sorted/counted.
- D) It is then displayed in the kitchen and bar screen.
- E) Once orders are completed, the chef and/or bartender hits 'Completed' per order entry on screen or with keyboard.
- F) The 'Completed' order status (Bar/Kitchen) will be sent to the waiter staff with a 'Beep'.
- G) The central station can display all open/close orders with the status for each. With or without interface to the existing system, receipts can be printed.

Logical Architecture Diagram: Food and Drink Order Automation System, Robert K. Tsang, Customer #31069

Logical Architecture for The Food Order Automation System



CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION:

Not Applicable

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT:

Not Applicable

REFERENCE TO SEQUENCE LISTING, A TABLE, OR A COMPUTER PROGRAM LISTING COMPACT.

Not Applicable

DISK APPENDIX:

Not Applicable

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION:

The invention pertains to restaurant's food order computer systems. The Order Automation system revamps restaurant food and drinks ordering processes and procedures with a state of the art wireless technology. With this system, customer food and drink orders can be processed and delivered at a fraction of the time compared to traditional methods. Order Entry and Order Notifications are displayed on the handheld device carried by the wait staff thus allowing the wait staff to place food orders/receive notifications with the wireless transmitter. This method eliminates the travel time between table and station/kitchen/bar.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION:

The presented invention relates to an improved food order placement system allowing a remote, interactive audiovisual communication between the wait staff and the kitchen/bar stations. The wait staff can remotely submit a food/drink order to the kitchen/bar stations without physically being there. Once the drink and/or food order are completed and ready to be delivered to the customer table, the kitchen/bar staff can send a electronic notification to the PDA handheld device(s) carried by the wait staff.

The Order Automation system attempts to reduce the time spent traveling between customer tables and stations/kitchen/bar. When travel time is reduced, restaurant patrons receive food and drink orders much faster. Sheer sales volume increases when restaurant patrons get in/out of the restaurant in a shorter time slot. The restaurant patron's increased turnover rate generates higher revenue without affecting operating cost. The complete *Food and Drink Order Automation System*, if used properly, will not negatively affect the overhead or operating cost.

Traditional method:

- Waiter/waitress take the customer food and drink order.
- Go to the central station or kitchen/bar to submit the orders.
- Wait for the kitchen bell to ring when food is ready and if for drinks, wait by the bar for the drink orders.
- The traditional method requires waiting for orders to be completed and time spent walking between customer tables to bar/kitchen.

Order Automation method:

- Wait staff carry a remote handheld device where orders can be transmitted upon entry, they will not need to walk to the kitchen and bar until the orders are ready.
- The bartender and/or kitchen staff notifies the wait staff when orders are ready by touching the screen panel at their workstation.
- The wait staff's remote handheld device will be "Beep" and be notified of the customer's order.
- The table number, order status, order to delivery time duration, etc. are displayed on the wait staff's remote handheld device.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING:
Food and Drink Order Automation System, Robert K. Tsang, Customer #31069

